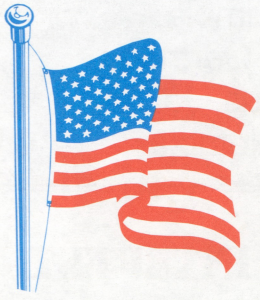
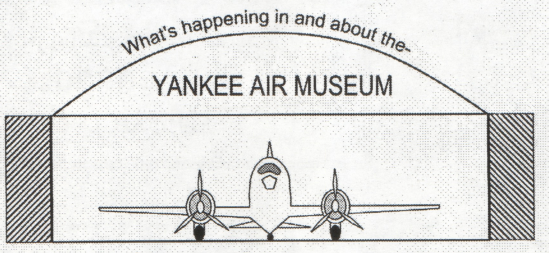
The Newsletter of the Yankee Air Force





Hangar Happenin's

November 2003

Features	*Page*
Connie's Corner	3
The Apple Accent	4
B-17 Reaches a Milestone!	5
1,000 Flight Hours	6
FLEX Hat Offer	7
The Room 216 Report	8
Help Wanted!	9
World's Easiest Quiz	9
Long-Range Planning	10
Florida Flight Lines	10
Reach for the Stars	11
Ho! Ho! Ho!	12

REMEMBER VETERANS DAY TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11TH

Join us on the web: www.yankeeairmuseum.org

Yankee Air Force, Inc.
d/b/a Yankee Air Museum
A Non-Profit Organization
501(c)(3)
2041 A Street - East Access
Willow Run Airport
Belleville MI 48111

Hangar Happenin's is the monthly newsletter of the Yankee Air Force.

Founding Editor: **Bill Abbott**
1919 - 2000

Editor: Evelyn Rouse

Staff:
Connie Kosek, Don Burke, Bill Hanney, Eric Aubrey, Mary Ann Bittner, Dan Tomczak, Roger Peterson, Bernie Hallman, Dave Steiner

Officers of the Yankee Air Force:

President: Jon Stevens
Vice-President: Bill Hanney
Secretary: Mary Jane Medlock
Treasurer: Erwin Stirnweis

Directors:
Don Burke, Ted Drews, Randy Hotton, Joe Leugers, Dan Tomczak, Deane Baker, Bill Colwell, Brian Higgins, Ray Hunter, Dick Stewart, Russ Welch

Ex Officio Non-Voting: Dennis Norton

MEETING SCHEDULE

1st Wednesday of Month - 7:30 PM
General Membership
All Members & Guests Welcome

2nd Wednesday of Month - 7:30 PM
Flyable Aircraft Meeting
Everyone Welcome

3rd Wednesday of Month - 7:30 PM
Board Meeting
All Members Welcome

4th Saturday of Month - 10:30 AM
Staff Meeting
All Department Chairs & Managers

MUSEUM HOURS

10 AM - 4 PM TUESDAY - SATURDAY
12 NOON - 4 PM SUNDAY
CLOSED MONDAYS & HOLIDAYS

Phone: (734) 483 - 4030
Fax: (734) 483 - 5076

Copyright © 2003 Yankee Air Force Inc.

Visitors to our Museum
during **September 2003** were from
18 of our United States,
District of Columbia,
Canada, England, Germany,
Switzerland, Cyprus, Japan
Mexico and Colombia

PAST DATES OF INTEREST

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

7-8 Nov 1836	First long-distance aerial voyage: 480 miles over England in a **hydrogen balloon**
8 Nov 1950	F-80 downs MiG-15 over Korea in **first jet combat**
10 Nov 1775	**US Marine Corps** established
11 Nov 1919	President Wilson proclaims **Armistice Day**
11 Nov 1954	Armistice Day renamed **Veterans Day**
11 Nov 1956	First flight of the B-58 **Hustler** supersonic bomber
14 Nov 1966	C-141 **Starlifter** first jet aircraft to land in Antarctica
20 Nov 1942	Opening of the **Alaska Highway**
22 Nov 1963	**President Kennedy** assassinated
24 Nov 1988	B-2 **Stealth Bomber** unveiled
24 Nov 1944	B-29 **formation attack** on Tokyo led by the *Dauntless Dotty* piloted by Rosie O'Donnell and Bob Morgan

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

When *will* there be another 50/50 drawing at the general membership meeting*?!*

To contact Hangar Happenin's
E-mail: **hangarhapps@yankeeairmuseum.org**
Phone: **(734) 483-4030 Ext 219**

CONNIE'S CORNER

by
Connie Kosek

Thanksgiving Day 2003 will be a time for families to say grace, gobble turkey, stuffing, sweet and mashed potatoes, cranberries and, of course, pumpkin pie. Many of us will be seated around fancy, decorated tables, while the die-hards will be glued to the TV and football games, eating from snack trays. Later on, Mom and the kids will be watching movies like *Miracle on 34th Street* and *It's A Wonderful Life*. Then Friday, right after Thanksgiving Day, many of us will be out Christmas shopping until we drop. Ah, tradition.

Every year in the fall, schools and stores are decorated with cardboard cutouts of the Pilgrims, dressed in their clunky buckled shoes, funny hats and loose-fitting clothes. And that is about all many people know about that group of English men, women, and children who sailed to America long ago in search of a better life, and to gain freedom of religion. It was King James and the Church of England who had given the Pilgrims the ultimatum to "shape up or ship out," and they chose the latter.

The *Mayflower* was no cruise ship. Of the 102 passengers aboard the *Mayflower*, there were (including 34 children) only 50 passengers who were Pilgrims. But, even though not everyone aboard was a religious Pilgrim, the whole group had become known as Pilgrims.

There were 25-30 sailors, two dogs, lots of rats, mice and lice, and cats to chase the rats, and goats, pigs and chickens. The voyage was noisy with a menagerie of critters aboard, beams crackling and waves crashing. And smelly...not only the pigs...but the people. No one changed clothes or bathed during the 66 days of the trip.

None of the Pilgrims knew for sure what to expect. They had given up friends, homes, schools and shops. Yes, they risked everything for their religion and ideals. They believed in God's plans for them.

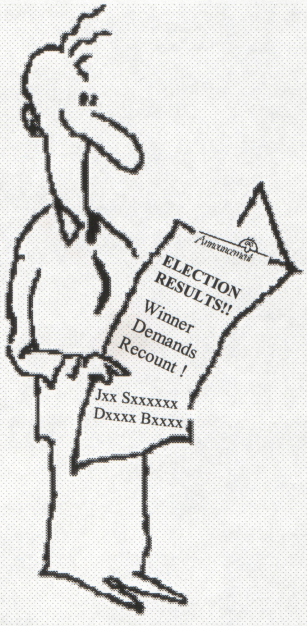
Legend has it that after landing near the shores of Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620, the Pilgrims stepped out onto a boulder which later became the famous *Plymouth Rock*.

The Pilgrims weren't expecting to meet a friendly Indian, but they did. His name was Samoset, an Algonquin Indian chief from the area which is now the state of Maine. He came to Plymouth with an English explorer who had taught him to speak English.

Within five days of meeting the Pilgrims, Samoset returned to their camp with five hungry Indian friends. The Pilgrims fed the Indians and, in exchange for food, the Indians danced and sang. The Pilgrims had never seen anything like it and so...pardon the saying... "the rest is history."

Happy Thanksgiving Day !

Watch for our
YAF election results
in the December issue of
Hangar Happenin's !



Thanks to the members of the Election Committee who gave their time and effort to our 2003 election process:
Mike Cayley, Dan Cojocar, Mary Ann Cripps, Les Klima and **Robert Pilz.**

Our gratitude also goes to
Huron Valley Printing & Imaging
and to *HH!*

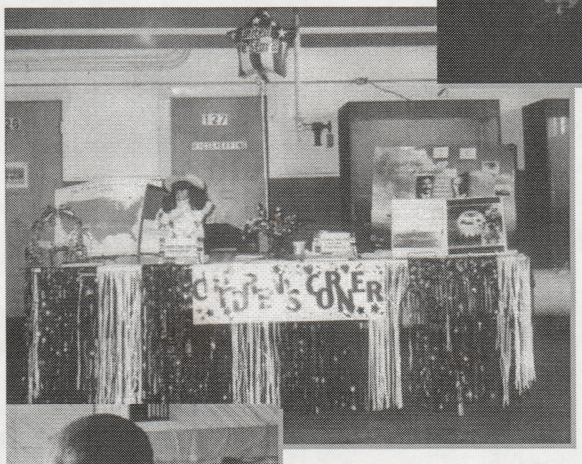
COVER PHOTO
by ***Eric Aubrey***
#10238 WR

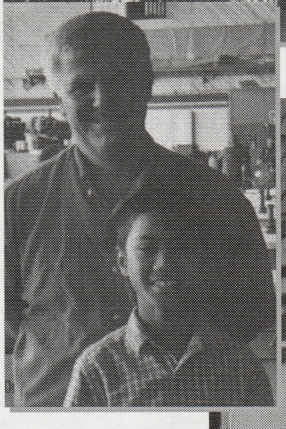
SHADOW OF HISTORY

Flying home from a unique one-day airshow Living History Books IV: *A Walk Through Time* in Monroe, Michigan on Saturday, 4 October 2003, our B-25D *Yankee Warrior* lines up for a farewell pass over Monroe Custer Airport (D92).

THE APPLE ACCENT

by *Darlene Imus*
#7742 WR





Yankee Air Museum
celebrated its 22nd Anniversary this year!

For our many members, past and present, Founders Day is a great time to acknowledge the variety of events that have happened throughout those years.

I have been a member for only a short period of time. However, I have met and learned a lot about aviation and its history through many people at Yankee Air Museum. I'm very grateful to them for sharing their experiences and knowledge with me.

For the Sunday Open House I set up a display featuring materials about pioneers in aviation. Included were resources to interest children in First through Fifth Grades.

For the girls, I provided information on Amelia Earhart, Bessie Coleman and Eleanor Roosevelt (who had a great influence on women aviators). Also featured were fictional books about *Samantha*, a young girl who lived around the time of the Wright brothers' first powered flight.

For the boys, I had many books on Orville and Wilbur Wright. These resources describe the hardships they overcame to accomplish the first successful motorized aircraft flight. Models of the Wright Flyer also helped to visually demonstrate the importance of their work.

Many of my students and their families from St. Francis stopped by to visit. They all had a great time looking at the B-17, B-25, and C-47. Of course, eating hot dogs, potato chips, and drinking pop topped off their lists! I am glad they had a wonderful time helping to celebrate Yankee Air Museum's anniversary.

BETTE WATSON

OUR B-17 REACHES A MILESTONE !

On Friday, 12 September 2003, about halfway to our Pennsylvania destination—NAS Willow Grove—YAF's magnificent B-17G experienced some unusual aileron activity: joyous WING WAGGLES!
Our *Yankee Lady* was trying to tell everyone on board she had just completed one thousand flying hours since her restoration!

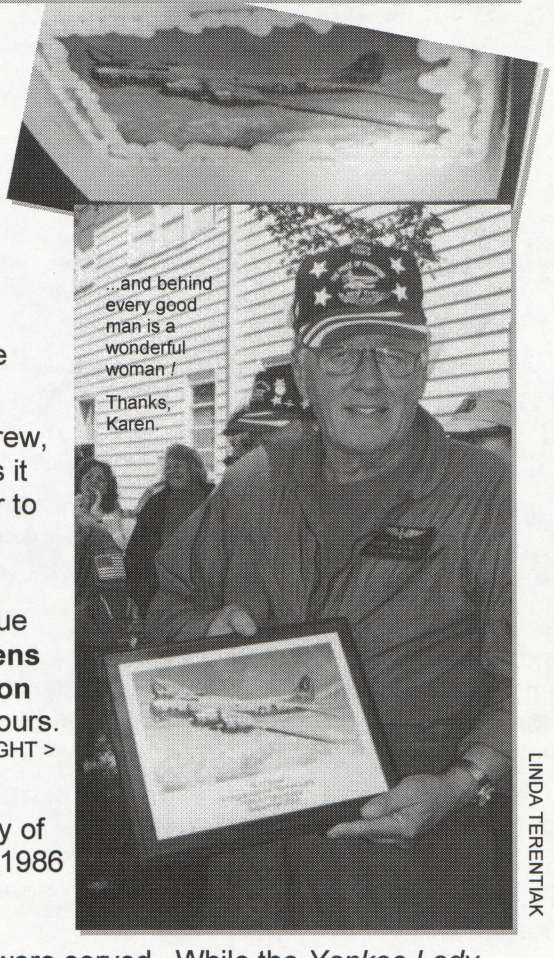
We decided to celebrate this milestone later that same month on Founders Day Anniversary Weekend.

Using our group photo of Yankee's B-17 restoration crew, plus John Dibbs' famous photo of our *Yankee Lady* as it looks today, a nearby *Kinko's* made an 8"x10" transfer to be used by a very creative bakery *You Take the Cake* to design two specially decorated sheet cakes.

Sunday afternoon, 21 September 2003, at the barbecue honoring all our volunteers, YAM President **Jon Stevens** presented a plaque to B-17 Crew Chief **Norm Ellickson** with congratulations on *Yankee Lady's* 1000.0 flight hours.
PHOTO AT RIGHT >

"I didn't do this alone!" declared Norm.

B-17 Chief Pilot **Dick Bodycombe** recounted the story of our B-17's delivery to the Yankee Air Museum in July 1986 and highlights of her nine-year restoration.



LINDA TERENTIAK

Our B-17 was up for a flight experience as the cakes were served. While the *Yankee Lady* lined up for a spectacular pass, south to north, up the east ramp, someone in the crowd of happy volunteers shouted "This one's for you, Norm!"

1,000 FLIGHT HOURS

During Founders Day, as crew chief of the B-17G *Yankee Lady*, **Norm Ellickson** was presented with a cake and plaque celebrating 1,000 flight hours of the B-17. The cake was decorated with a copy of the picture taken of the restoration crew in front of the *Yankee Lady*. This was a complete surprise to Norm, who accepted the cake on behalf of the restoration, maintenance and flight crews.

Since we started flying the B-17 in July of 1995, we have had no accidents or incidents, which reflects well on the flight crews. We have missed three air shows during this time, two due to engine failures and the other one, I think, was due to a magneto failure, and we didn't have a spare. This is a result of the restoration crew doing a great job, the flight crew not abusing the equipment and the maintenance crews doing a lot of preventative maintenance.

Now, you ask, what is 1,000 flight hours in terms that I can understand? 1,000 flight hours at 150 mph equals 150,000 miles. That is more than five times around the world at the equator.

All in all, a great job done by all.

Don Burke

BETTE WATSON

Basking in the afterglow of our Sunday barbecue, celebrating Founders Day weekend and the first 1000.0 flight hours of the *Yankee Lady,* are (seated from left to right) both new and longtime Yankee members Ron Reiser, Paul Scholl, Ted Drews, Nina Smith, Dick Bodycombe and Scott Smith.

In Memory Of...

We're saddened to learn
Alice Gustafson
Senior Life Member
#5720 WR
has passed away

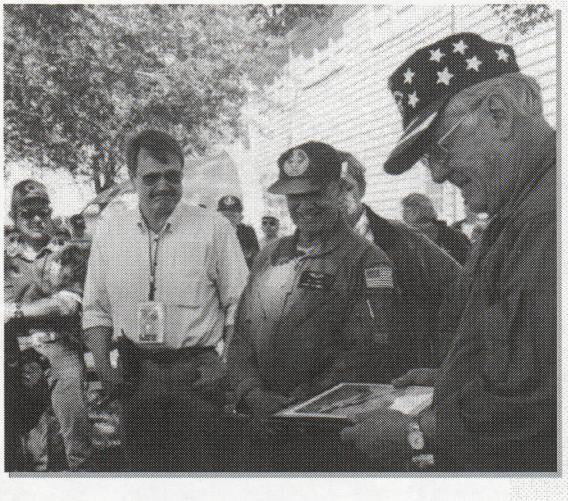
Beverly Demko
#428 WR
passed away
21 September 2003

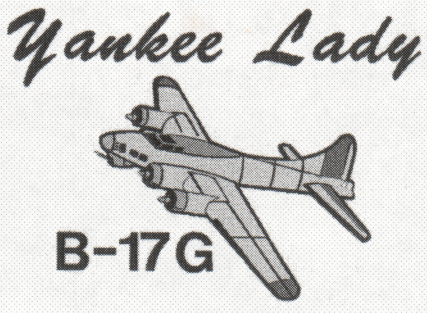
ERIC AUBREY

Above and beyond *!*

Enjoying the Sunday barbecue,
a tribute to our Yankee volunteers
and the *Yankee Lady*

PHOTOS BY LINDA TERENTIAK





Flight Experience Hat

Navy blue hat with narrow white piping along the visor. The *Yankee Lady* is featured on the front and the left side of the hat says *Yankee Lady Flight Experience*. The aircraft and text are embroidered with white, silver, and red threads. Allow three to four weeks for delivery.

$25.00

Includes UPS delivery
Michigan residents add $1.50 tax

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone Number _____

Checks should be made payable to the Yankee Air Museum. Mail your order to:

Mail Order Hat Offer
Yankee Air Museum Store
P.O. Box 590
Belleville, MI 48112-0590

The Room 216 Report

*by **Jon Stevens** L 4172 WR*

While we are still a small—but growing—organization, the amount of regional and national press exposure we're receiving has grown significantly over the last couple of years.

Those of you who attended *Thunder Over Michigan* in August know what a great event it was. For those who were not able to attend (or even if you did), you can pick up the current issue of *Air Classics* magazine. It gave our event over 15 pages of coverage! Since last month's deadline, we've had two fly-in events at Willow Run: the return of the *National Air Tour* on Wednesday, 24 Sept 03, and the *Michigan Air Tour* on Sunday, 5 Oct 03.

Last month we shared with you the events leading up to the National Air Tour's departure. On their 16-day odyssey around the Midwest, deep South, and eastern United States, this incredible group of pilots and crews faced many of the challenges their predecessors did 75 years ago, including mechanical problems and challenging weather—the worst being Hurricane Isabel.

As scheduled, they returned on the 24th to an excited crowd of members and guests. We held a small ceremony, which included music from the Belleville High School Band, and a speech by the Mayor of Belleville **Thomas Fielder**. Many thanks go to **Bob Campbell**, **Dwight Koslowski**, **Mary Jane Medlock**, **Jim Reddick**, **Dick Stewart**, **Debbie Stewart**, **Tom Stewart**, **Jane Spires** and **Dan Tomczak** for their help in coordinating this warm reception.

Almost 75 years ago, the *National Air Tour* inspired a smaller event called the *Michigan Air Tour*. As with many events during the later 1920s and early 30s, this one had its fits and starts. Now in its 25th consecutive year, we took a part for the first time, hosting the end of tour. For our participation, we received a plaque from the Michigan Aeronautics Commission and Michigan Aviation Association, which reads:

25th Annual Commemorative
Michigan Air Tour
In Recognition of the
Economic Importance of
Michigan's Airport Network
Marshall Brooks Field
Alma Gratiot Community Airport
Bay City Clements Airport
East Tawas
Iosco County Airport
Rogers City
Presque Isle County Airport
Cheboygan County Airport
Detroit Willow Run Airport
October 3rd – 5th, 2003

Hopefully, we'll be airborne participants next year, flying our Stinson V-77 Reliant, and perhaps even our C-47.

The downside to the close of our flying season, from an administrative standpoint, is this is also the time of year that people sometimes choose to step aside and resign from their positions. I've received three such resignations in the last few weeks. I'd like to extend my thanks to these individuals for their hard work over the last several years. Special events always mean crowds and parking many cars. **Dan Cojocar** has been our special events parking coordinator for as long as most of us can remember, and has built a loyal crew over these many years. The Membership office isn't one that gets a lot of notice, even though it's the one we're all involved with early on. After the passing of **Charlie Lingenfelter**, **Don Johnson** stepped up to the plate. **Al Junko** took over as Chief Docent early last year. To Dan, Don and Al, our sincere thanks for your hard work, and we hope to continue seeing you around the hangar!

Lastly, you may remember my posting a *Help Wanted* column in last November's issue and this year it's back. Take a look at the items posted on the next page and contact **Kevin McNichol** for more information.

If you've got anything you want to discuss, please feel free to call me at **(248) 353-3384** or e-mail: **jon_stevens_77@worldnet.att.net**

Until next month,
let's keep talking
and keep 'em flying!

* * HELP WANTED * *

Willow Run Division

MANAGEMENT POSITION — MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR (WR)
Oversees the activities of the Membership Committee, which is responsible for maintaining the YAF's membership roster, collecting membership dues, and recruiting new members. Contact Jon Stevens (248) 353-3384 or (734) 483-4030 Ext. 224.

MANAGEMENT POSITION — CHIEF DOCENT (WR)
Coordinates Willow Run Division Docents Desk, recruits new Docents, and provides Tour Guides. Contact Jon Stevens (248) 353-3384 or (734) 483-4030 Ext. 224.

MANAGEMENT POSITION— PARKING COORDINATOR (WR)
Coordinates Parking Lot Crews at YAM special events (Memorial Day, Air Display, etc.). Contact Debbie Stewart or Kevin McNichol (734) 483-4030.

AIRCRAFT RESTORATION (WR) Works with YAM Director of Static Aircraft Restoration, crew chiefs and present restoration crews. Must love old airplanes and dislike bird nests. Experience with sheet metal work and/or fighting squirrels getting into birdfeeders are pluses, but not required. Reports to Director of Static Aircraft Restoration and crew chiefs as necessary. Contact Richard Rice or Kevin McNichol (734) 483-4030.

CARPENTERS—WEEKDAYS and WEEKENDS (WR) Works with YAM Curator, Hangar Coordinator and present Carpenters. Must love serious challenges and thinks *This Old House* is for wimps. Experience preferred. Kevin McNichol (734) 483-4030.

DOCENTS and TOUR GUIDES (WR) Works with Chief Docent YAM Curator, Directors of Marketing and Education, and present docent staff. Must love aviation history, meeting with the public; accurate storytelling preferable. Reports to Chief Docent. Contact Kevin McNichol (734) 483-4030.

HELP WANTED!!

Your hangar needs you!

If you want to help us to **paint**, **fix up the walls** or any of dozens of other **maintenance jobs**, just drop by the hangar on **Tuesdays, Thursdays,** or **Saturdays** from 9AM—1PM and ask for **Bob Richards**.
or call (734) 483-4030 Ext. 439 and leave a message.
All materials will be covered by the Museum.

All you have to do is the work!

World's Easiest Quiz

1. How long did the 100-year war last?
2. Which country made Panama hats?
3. From which animal do we get catgut?
4. In which months do Russian's celebrate the October Revolution?
5. What is a camel hairbrush made of?
6. The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
7. What was King George VI's first name?
8. What color is a Purple Finch?
9. Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
10. What is the color of the black box in a commercial airliner?

Answers:

1. 116 years
2. Ecuador
3. Sheep and horses
4. November
5. Squirrel fur
6. Dog
7. Albert
8. Crimson
9. New Zealand
10. Orange

REPORT / MEETING / LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

In order to formulate a plan for directed and controlled growth, the Yankee Air Force Board of Governors has formed a long-range planning committee. Its purpose is to envision what the Yankee Air Museum will look like in 10, 15 or 20 years. Committee members are **Jon Stevens, Russ Welch, Brian Higgins, Bill Colwell,** and **Randy Hotton.**

Long-Range Planning Committee meetings are now held twice per month. This is in order to move forward to identify and develop plans for the YAM. We've looked at museums which have not been as successful as planned; we will not name those. A common problem was they expanded, built new facilities on the *Field of Dreams* (baseball movie) concept: build it and they will come. In most instances, they did not come and the organizations found themselves in financial difficulty. We cannot expand as we presently exist without significant internal growth or outside help from the Foundation. We have looked at successful museums, like the United States Air Force Museum and The Henry Ford. Why do people go to those museums? Reasons to see the Air Force Museum are obvious; it is very big and there are many things to see. We cannot match the USAF Museum. Why do people go to Greenfield Village? We felt this was because there are things to do and see that change on a regular basis. It is because of the special events, like the Civil War re-enactors, the old car shows; there is always a reason to go back to Greenfield Village.

Events seem to be a key. Yankee Air Museum is successful at staging events.

We identified three essential areas that are the present strength of Yankee Air Museum and our key for future direction:

The first is our **membership** which provides the seed money, through membership dues, to make the YAM a viable organization.

The second strength is our **volunteers**; these are the people who make the place work. Without them, there would be no YAM.

The third, and most importantly a growing part of the YAM, are our **events**. We are putting our Museum on the map with our events.

Using the three essential elements identified above, the Long-Range Planning Committee is now working to capitalize upon our strengths. There is a sense of excitement on the Committee that we can truly make Yankee Air Museum one of the most impressive museums in North America. We will keep you posted.

FLORIDA FLIGHT LINES

Saturday-Sunday, November 1-2, 2003
Dunnellon Airport (X35) *Yankee Air Force / DAB Contractors Inc.*
Centennial of Flight Airshow
Gates open at 9 AM
Airshow starts at 1 PM
Plane and helicopter rides will be available
If you're in Florida, please come help celebrate 100 Years of Flight

CONTACT: JOHN GAMPP (352) 465-0727

~ *Muriel Haedike*

REACH FOR THE STARS *!*

On Saturday 20 September 2003 Yankee Air Museum's Education Department was asked for the second year to participate in the ***Sally Ride Science Festival*** on the University of Michigan North Campus. This was the second festival held at U of M and we were glad to be invited again.

The Sally Ride Science Festival *Reach for the Stars* was designed to encourage young girls in grades 5-8 not to shy away from math and science. There were at least three workshops, plus a street fair for the girls, in addition to workshops for the parents. Sally Ride gave the keynote address to more than 700 girls and saved time for many questions and answers.

I put together a *Careers in Aviation* workshop, plus we had a computer flight simulator for the girls to try out. On hand to help with our workshop were **Connie Schwartz, Carol Foy, Mary Ann Bittner, Carol Callan** from the FAA and myself. We all enjoyed talking with the young girls, parents, teachers and other exhibitors.

Connie brought her daughter Lauren last year and had such a good time she came again this year and attended some workshops. My personal observation of the Sally Ride Science Festival is what makes me stay involved our education program at Yankee. It was very gratifying to see more than 700 young girls interested enough to be there, observe the volunteers from U of M's School of Engineering, and all the corporations there doing workshops. It was a great day!

Bette Watson

Our flight simulator was a big hit with many a future aviatrix.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BETTE WATSON

Carol Callan, Mary Ann Bittner, Carol Foy, Bette Watson, Connie Schwartz

Museum Store Christmas Sale

November 28-December 28

25% off!

Members must present valid ID membership card with them at time of purchase

Join Us!

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 13, 2003

6 PM in the YAF Meeting Room
We'll have the HAM and TURKEY.
Soft drinks, coffee, tea & hot chocolate will also be provided.

Bring a side dish to pass:
bread, fruit or vegetable trays, salads, casseroles, mashed potatoes and gravy, or your favorite dessert.
Bring only one guest per member, please.

Win some great door prizes!
Santa will be here, too!

YANKEE AIR FORCE
PO BOX 590
BELLEVILLE MI 48112-0590

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 56
Belleville, Michigan

**********3-DIGIT 483 1523 S5 P2
DAVID T. SAUNDERS
5010 CLEARVIEW DR
CLARKSTON MI 48348-3933

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS ON THE LABEL, AND IF YOU HAVE ANY CHANGES, NOTIFY OUR MEMBERSHIP OFFICE.